

GENERAL NOTES

Western Grebe in Massachusetts.—On January 1, 1939, while making a census of birds on Martha's Vineyard off the southern coast of Massachusetts, my attention was called by one of our party, Richard Stackpole, to a large grebe close inshore and perhaps a quarter of a mile distant. I recognized the bird immediately as a Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*. We promptly drove down the road which conveniently paralleled the beach until opposite the bird, which had meantime drifted farther offshore, and studied it through telescopes for perhaps twenty minutes. The bird was associating particularly with a flock of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) but there was also a flock of American Eiders near by as well as a few Scoters. At the place in question, Chilmark, a strong current follows the shoreline and an hour or so later in the afternoon while watching some Eastern Harlequin Ducks and a substantial flock of Scoters I saw presumably the same Western Grebe and a flock of Loons drifting in. They had been carried a half mile or more from the original location.

I am well acquainted with the Western Grebe, having observed it in Oregon and California. I saw the species frequently in southern California in September, 1938. Another member of the party, Mr. Oliver K. Scott, had also become acquainted with the species while in the West in the summer of 1938. The remaining members of the party were Messrs. D. L. Garrison, Ralph Hornblower, Jr., and Eric Cutler. Mr. Hornblower and I returned the following day in the hope that we might be able to break out a boat and collect the bird, but we failed to observe it.

The occurrence of the Western Grebe on the Atlantic Coast has been outlined in the 'General Notes' in 'The Auk' for July, 1937. The above observation constitutes an additional 'sight record' by six observers, two of whom in addition to having a thorough knowledge of the Holboell's Grebe, had within a few months observed the Western Grebe in its home territory.—WENDELL TABER, *Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

Western Grebe in New Jersey.—The only specimen of the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) actually secured on the Atlantic coast was brought to the Charleston Museum on June 22, 1936 (Chamberlain, E. B., *Auk*, 53: 438, 1936), but there are now reliable sight records for this species in Massachusetts. In March and April, 1937, an apparently mated pair was observed near the mouth of the Merrimack River (Allen, F. H., and Tyler, W. M., *Auk*, 54: 376-379, 1937). Its occurrence in the New York City region, a short distance south, is not, therefore, entirely unexpected.

On January 8, 1939, Gilbert B. Cant, John T. S. Hunn, and the writer visited the Long Beach strip in Ocean County, New Jersey. Just north of the town of Beach Haven, we drove out to the ocean beach and soon espied a large diver near the shore. Making a short detour, we arrived at a point which we judged to be about opposite the bird, approached behind a sand dune, and found that we were within fifty yards of what was unmistakably a Western Grebe. The time was shortly before noon with brilliant sunshine and a calm sea. Easily observed with our 6-, 7-, and 12-power binoculars were the great size, the long swan-like neck, and the striking black and white coloration. The crown, a narrow strip down the back of the neck, and the remainder of the upper parts were solid black, while the face, neck, and under parts were pure white. The bill was long, thin, and distinctly light-colored. To make comparison easy, a Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*) floated on the water just beyond it. Though not previously familiar with this species in life, we were all thoroughly acquainted with the darker, heavier-billed Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus griseogen holboelli*) so that there was no confusion with that species. The bird gradu-